



Membership

TRS is the retirement system for educators in positions requiring certification under the Illinois School Code and employed in public schools outside the city of Chicago.

Covered positions

You qualify for TRS membership if you are employed as:

- ★ a classroom teacher,
- ★ a school administrator requiring certification,
- ★ a substitute or part-time teacher,
- ★ a driver education teacher,
- ★ a chief school business official requiring certification,
- ★ a school librarian,
- ★ a teacher of homebound students,
- ★ a school nurse,
- ★ a school psychologist,
- ★ a school social worker,
- ★ a regional superintendent of education,
- ★ an assistant regional superintendent of education,
- ★ an employee of a regional superintendent in an educational program that serves two or more districts and in a position that requires certification, or
- ★ a tutor employed by a district during the school day.

You may also be a member of TRS if you are employed in a position requiring teacher certification in certain state government agencies or in certain positions with the State Board of Education or TRS.

Noncovered positions

You do not qualify for TRS membership if you are employed as a:

- ★ non-certificated school administrator,
- ★ bus driver,
- ★ cafeteria worker,
- ★ clerical worker,
- ★ custodian,
- ★ parent educator,
- ★ psychologist intern,
- ★ TRS annuitant who works fewer than 120 days or 600 hours in a TRS-covered position (see “Employment limitations for annuitants” under “Post-Retirement Matters,” page 28),
- ★ secretary,
- ★ security guard,
- ★ social worker intern,
- ★ student teacher,
- ★ graduate administrator intern,
- ★ teacher aide,
- ★ tutor who is paid by a parent or student, or
- ★ physical therapist assistant.

Positions that do not qualify for TRS membership may be covered by the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

Effective date of membership

The effective date of your membership in TRS is the day you begin employment in a TRS-covered position. If your employer has not recorded your date of employment, your membership date is the first payroll day for which contributions from your salary are required.

Felony conviction

If you are convicted of a work-related felony while you are a member of TRS, you become ineligible for TRS membership and benefits. However, you may take a refund of your TRS retirement contributions. (See “Refund of Retirement Contributions,” page 40.)

If you are convicted while an annuitant, you are entitled to a refund of your retirement contributions that have not been paid as an annuity benefit.